UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/45/363/Add.1
25 October 1990
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 56 (j)

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

International arms transfers

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

CONTENTS

Page

INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic 2

best copy available

BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]

[15 October 1990]

1. The Byelorussian SSR regards the problem of the limitation of the international arms trade as extremely significant in relation to strengthening international security and building a new model for it. The increasing dimensions of the international arms trade, the involvement in it of an ever wider circle of suppliers and purchasers, the indisputably destabilizing effect of arms transfers on regional security and thereby on global security, the exacerbation of the problems of security and the peaceful settlement of conflicts as a result of arms transfers, including illicit transfers, to terrorist units and groups of drug traffickers, the increasing involvement in arms transfers of the latest and particularly dangerous types of weapons, the worsening problems of control of the spread of such weapons and the prevention of their use, the negative economic effects of arms imports - all these factors create knotty problems in today's interdependent world which can be unravelled only by means of a broad dialogue.

2. One subject of this dialogue must be an unbiased analysis of the existing situation with regard to arms sales and transfers and a search for innovative approaches to the solution of the problem. The natural participants in such a dialogue are the States which sell and buy arms, regional organizations, and the United Nations. All levels, from the bilateral to the global, must be brought into this vital search aimed at establishing effective consultative processes.

3. The dialogue on the problem of the limitation of international arms transfers must become an integral part of the broader efforts to make the disarmament process universal and consolidate the foundations of global security. The principles and rules of the Charter of the United Nations, including the right to individual and collective self-defence, must, of course, be borne in mind in the conduct of this dialogue.

4. The Byelorussian SSR is in favour of the establishment of an international register of arms transfers, for this could mark an important step towards ensuring greater openness in military matters and become a means of building confidence as an important factor of security and the starting-point and basis for subsequent progress towards a solution of the problem of the international arms trade. At a later stage there would be the task of moving towards multilateral restraint and limitation of arms transfers.

5. The Byelorussian SSR believes that practical work on the compilation of a register should begin. To that end, it would be useful to convene a group of experts to determine the criteria and parameters of the register. The register might be established under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

6. The creation of a system of openness in international arms transfers could usefully be combined with participation by States in the United Nations system for the reporting of military expenditures.

7. It would be a useful step to agree on the general principles of the limitation of arms transfers.

8. In the opinion of the Byelorussian SSR, such principles and the corresponding subsequent practical measures undertaken on both a national and an international basis might include:

- The need for restraint in arms transfers to areas of conflict in view of the desirability of a political settlement;

- The application to arms purchases of the principle of a reasonable defence sufficiency;

- The need to refrain from supplying offensive weapons;

- The inadmissibility of the transfer of weapons of mass destruction or their technology, including some types of missiles and missile technology;

- The need for a ban on the supply of particularly inhuman types of weapons, particularly those banned by the relevant conventions on specific types of conventional weapons;

- The prohibition of the transfer of dual-purpose technology which may have dangerous military applications, except under effective guarantees that it will not be diverted to arms production;

- Comprehensive support of regional initiatives and bilateral efforts to limit arms sales and purchases in the light of the specific characteristics of the region;

- A more effective role for the United Nations Security Council in the limitation or prohibition of arms transfers to areas of conflict; and the establishment under the auspices of the Secretary-General of a mechanism for investigating possible violations of such Security Council decisions or other international agreements on the limitation of arms transfers;

- International co-operation, including co-operation through the United Nations, in eliminating illicit arms transfers.

9. Given the practical application of principles and measures of this kind, it would be possible to include as an integral part of any package arrangements for the political settlement of conflicts the common obligation of States to limit or terminate arms transfers to areas of conflict.

10. The Byelorussian SSR also believes that all of this would open up prospects for the drafting of an international legal instrument on the limitation of international arms transfers.

11. All approaches to the solution of the problem of international arms transfers must necessarily be agreed on the basis of a balance of interests and taking into

READEX

account universal priorities. The Byelorussian SSR is convinced that the limitation of the international arms trade and arms transfers is a goal which is fully within the scope of the international community if it acts on the basis of new approaches by all the States concerned. Progress in this direction will make a substantial contribution to the creation of a world without wars, terrorism or violence.